AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the captioned application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A personal assistance apparatus having a mobile seating surface, said seating surface having a ~~power driven, selectively~~ variable height capacity that is selectively driven to and from a substantially contiguous floor plane ~~level~~ and an automatically engaged mechanism for restricting translational mobility of said apparatus over said floor plane ~~a mobility incapacitating mechanism to immobilize said apparatus~~ when said seating surface is positioned substantially contiguous with ~~at~~ said floor plane ~~level~~.

Claim 2. (Original) A personal assistance apparatus as described by claim 1 wherein said seating surface is secured to a substantially vertical guide mast and translated along said mast by a linear actuator.

Claim 3, (Currently Amended) A personal assistance apparatus as described by claim 2 wherein said mast is secured at an angular departure from vertical to translate the center of a mass on said seat toward vertical alignment with a center of gravity of said apparatus as said seat rises along said mast from said floor plane ~~level~~.

Claim 4. (Original) A personal assistance apparatus as described by claim 2 wherein said mast is secured to a wheeled base frame.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A personal assistance apparatus as described by claim 4 wherein translational mobility of said wheeled ~~at least one wheel supporting said~~ base frame is restricted ~~immobilized~~ by a wheel braking mechanism.

Claim 6. (Canceled)

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A personal assistance apparatus as described by claim 5 ~~6~~ wherein said ~~wheel immobilization is maintained by said~~ braking mechanism continues restricted translational mobility of said wheeled base frame after translation of said seat from said floor plane ~~level~~.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A personal assistance apparatus as described by claim 7 wherein said restricted translational mobility of said wheeled base frame by ~~wheel is mobilized by manual release of~~ said braking mechanism may be manually removed after translation of said seat from said floor plane ~~level~~.

Claim 9. (Original) A personal assistance apparatus as described by claim 2 wherein said linear actuator comprises a threaded drive shaft that is rotatively driven by an electric motor.

Claim 10. (Original) A personal assistance apparatus as described by claim 2 wherein said seating surface is laterally delineated between arm barriers.

Claim 11. (Canceled)

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A mobile lifting device having:

a substantially vertical support mast secured to a base frame, said base frame being supported from a floor surface by a plurality of wheels;

a load platform suspended from said support mast;

a drive mechanism to translate said load platform along said mast substantially to and from a floor surface engagement position; and,

a braking mechanism to automatically restrict translational movement of ~~substantially immobilize~~ said base frame over said floor surface by positionment of said load platform at substantial contiguity ~~when said load platform is substantially contiguous~~ with said floor surface.

Claim 13. (Original) A mobile lifting device as described by claim 12 wherein said mast is secured to said base frame at an angular departure from vertical to translate the center of a mass on said load platform toward vertical alignment with a center of gravity of said device as said platform rises along said mast from said floor surface.

Claim 14. (Original) A mobile lifting device as described by claim 12 wherein said drive mechanism comprises a linear actuator.

Claim 15. (Original) A mobile lifting device as described by claim 14 wherein said linear actuator comprises a threaded drive shaft that is rotatively driven by an electric motor.

Claim 16. (Original) A mobile lifting device as described by claim 12 wherein said braking mechanism immobilizes at least one of said base frame support wheels.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) A mobile lifting device as described by claim 12 wherein said braking mechanism comprises a latching element to maintain restricted translational movement ~~continue immobilization~~ of said base frame after said platform is translated ~~rises~~ from said floor surface.

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) A mobile lifting device as described by claim 17 wherein said braking mechanism further comprises a manual latch release to manually disengage said latching element after said platform is translated ~~raised~~ from said floor surface.

Claim 19 (New) A personal assistance apparatus comprising: a base frame supported from a floor surface by a plurality of wheels distributed around the perimeter of an interior area; a linear actuator having a translation axis secured to said base frame at an alignment position with said base frame for substantially normal intersection of said axis with said floor surface within said interior area; and, a

load platform having a seat plane secured to said linear actuator for selective translation to and from a low position that is substantially within said interior area and where said seat plane is substantially contiguous with said floor surface.

Claim 20 (New) A personal assistance apparatus as described by claim 19 wherein said linear actuator is inclined to a vertical plane for translation of a rising load upon said platform toward an apparatus center of gravity.

Claim 21 (New) A personal assistance apparatus as described by claim 19 wherein the axis of said linear actuator is inclined to a vertical plane at about 5° for translation of a rising load upon said platform toward an apparatus center of gravity.

Claim 22 (New) A personal assistance apparatus as described by claim 19 having a wheel braking mechanism for restricting rotation of at least one of said wheels, said braking mechanism being resiliently biased to a wheel disengagement position.

Claim 23 (New) A personal assistance apparatus as described by claim 22 wherein said braking mechanism is operated to restrict wheel rotation by a brake engagement element of said linear actuator.

Claim 24 (New) A personal assistance apparatus as described by claim 23 wherein said breaking mechanism comprises a brake linkage that is engaged against a resilient bias by a structural portion of said linear actuator.

Claim 25 (New) A personal assistance apparatus as described by claim 24 wherein said structural portion of said linear actuator is positioned on said linear actuator to engage said brake linkage as said seat plane approaches said floor surface.

Claim 26 (New) A personal assistance apparatus as described by claim 25 having a retainer mechanism to continue engagement of said breaking mechanism with said wheel against said resilient bias after said linear actuator withdraws said

seat plane from said floor surface.

Claim 27 (New) A mobile lifting device having a base frame supported from a floor surface by a plurality of wheels distributed around the perimeter of an interior area, a linear actuator having a translation axis secured to said base frame at an alignment position with said base frame for substantially normal intersection of said axis with said floor surface within said interior area and a load platform having a load support plane secured to said linear actuator for selective translation to and from an low position that is substantially within said interior area and where said load support plane is substantially contiguous with said floor surface.

Claim 28 (New) A mobile lifting device as described by claim 27 wherein said linear actuator is inclined to a vertical plane for translation of a rising load upon said platform toward an apparatus center of gravity.

Claim 29 (New) A mobile lifting device as described by claim 27 wherein the axis of said linear actuator is inclined to a vertical plane at about 5° for translation of a rising load upon said platform toward an apparatus center of gravity.

Claim 30 (New) A mobile lifting device as described by claim 27 having a wheel braking mechanism for restricting rotation of at least one of said wheels, said braking mechanism being resiliently biased to a wheel disengagement position.

Claim 31 (New) A mobile lifting device as described by claim 30 wherein said braking mechanism is operated to restrict wheel rotation by a brake engagement element of said linear actuator.

Claim 32 (New) A mobile lifting device as described by claim 30 wherein said breaking mechanism comprises a brake linkage that is engaged against a resilient bias by a structural portion of said linear actuator.

Claim 33 (New) A mobile lifting device as described by claim 32 wherein said

structural portion of said linear actuator is positioned on said linear actuator to engage said brake linkage as said seat plane approaches said floor surface.

Claim 34 (New) A mobile lifting device as described by claim 33 having a retainer mechanism to continue engagement of said breaking mechanism with said wheel against said resilient bias after said linear actuator withdraws said seat plane from said floor surface.

Claim 35 (New) A mobile lifting device as described by claim 34 wherein said retainer mechanism is manually operated to release said breaking mechanism from engagement with said wheel.